

Remarks

Claims 1, 2 and 5-7 are pending in the application. No amendments are made herein, no new matter has been added, and no new material presented that would necessitate an additional search on the part of the Examiner.

Applicants note with appreciation that previous rejection of claims 1-3 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) in view of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. patent number 6,641,933, issued November 4, 2003) has been withdrawn.

Applicants further note with appreciation that previous rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Yamazaki et al. in combination with Codama et al. (U.S. patent number 6,121,726, issued September 19, 2000) has been withdrawn.

Prior to analyzing the art cited in the Office Action, Applicants believe that a brief description of the subject matter of independent claims 1 and 7 as here amended would be of use to the Examiner.

Claim 1 is directed to an electroluminescent device that includes a substrate, a porous layer that borders on the substrate, and a laminated body that borders on the porous layer. The laminated body includes at least a first electrode, an electroluminescent layer and a second electrode. A colored material is at least partially present in the pores of the porous layer. The porous layer is segmented, and the segments of the porous layer have different shapes.

Claim 7 is directed to a method of manufacturing an electroluminescent device that includes a substrate, a porous layer that borders on the substrate, and a laminated body that borders on the porous layer. The porous layer is segmented, and the segments of the porous layer have different shapes. The laminated body includes at least a first electrode, an

electroluminescent layer and a second electrode. A colored material is at least partially present in the pores of the porous layer. The colored material is introduced into the porous layer by means of ink jet printing.

Claims are not obvious

The Office Action on page 2 rejects claims 1, 2 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Sumi et al. (U.S. patent number 4,776,671, issued October 11, 1988) in combination with Yamazaki et al. (U.S. patent number 6,641,933, issued November 4, 2003).

Sumi et al., U.S. patent number 4,776,671, issued October 11, 1988

Sumi shows a high-property, high-precision color filter and method of manufacturing the color filter. See Sumi, column 3, lines 12-34. Sumi shows forming an active film layer on a transparent substrate, mounting a metal mask with specified pattern holes on the active film layer, mounting a transfer sheet with an ink layer on the metal mask, migrating dye in the ink layer to the active film layer by heating, and removing the transfer sheet and metal mask. Ibid., column 3, lines 12-25. These steps are repeated sequentially until the required number of colors is reached. Ibid., column 3, lines 25-26. An overcoat layer is formed for closing holes in the active film layer. Ibid., column 3, lines 29-30.

As a preliminary matter, Sumi fails to teach or suggest a laminated body comprising at least a first electrode, an electroluminescent layer and a second electrode, as admitted by the Office Action on page 2, and as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 7.

Further, Sumi fails to teach or suggest a colored material deposited by ink jet printing, as admitted by the Office Action on page 2, and as is the subject matter of claim 7.

Most important, Sumi fails to teach or suggest an electroluminescent device with a porous layer where the porous layer is segmented, let alone that the segments of the porous layer have different shapes, as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 7.

For any of these reasons, Sumi alone does not render any of pending claims 1 and 7. Claims 2 and 5-6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and contain all of the subject matter of claim 1 and contain additional subject matter, so these claims also are not obvious in view of Sumi alone.

Applicants show below that the other cited reference fails to cure these defects of Sumi.

Yamazaki et al., U.S. patent number 6,641,933, issued November 4, 2003

Yamazaki shows a light-emitting organic compound that is capable of providing electroluminescence, and an electroluminescent display device utilizing a light-emitting organic compound. See Yamazaki et al., column 1, lines 1-4. Two thin-film transistors (TFT) and a pixel electrode are electrically connected to form pixels on a substrate. Ibid, column 4, line 67; column 5, lines 1-5. An electroluminescent layer is formed over a cathode layer, and a transparent conductive film acting as an anode is formed over the electroluminescent layer. Ibid, column 5, lines 35-37, column 6, lines 61-62 and FIG. 1. An insulating film acting as a passivation film is formed over the anode, forming an active matrix substrate. Ibid, column 6, lines 66-67, column 7, lines 3-9, and FIG. 1. An opposing substrate is attached to the active matrix substrate, so that electroluminescent devices are located in between the two substrate layers. Ibid, column 7, lines 10-12.

As shown in the factual analysis of Sumi above, Yamazaki also fails to teach or suggest an electroluminescent device with a porous layer where the porous layer is

segmented and the segments of the porous layer have different shapes, as is the subject matter of claims 1 and 7. The Office Action on page 3 admits that Yamazaki is “silent regarding the limitation of the segments of the porous layer have different shapes.”

As Yamazaki fails to cure the defects of Sumi, therefore claims 1 and 7 are not obvious in view of the combination of Sumi and Yamazaki.

Claims 2, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the subject matter of claim 1 and contain additional subject matter. As Yamazaki fails to cure the defects of Sumi with respect to claims 1 and 7, therefore claims 2, 5 and 6 also are not obvious in view of the combination of Sumi and Yamazaki.

For these reasons, Applicants assert that the present claims comply with 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and respectfully request that rejection of claims 1, 2, and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.


Summary

On the basis of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested.

If there are any questions regarding these remarks, the Examiners are invited and encouraged to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

LAWSON & WEITZEN, LLP



Sonia K. Guterman, Reg. No. 44,729
Sara E. Finiki, Reg. No. 59,206
Lawson & Weitzen, LLP
88 Black Falcon Ave., Suite 345
Boston, Massachusetts 02110-2481
Tel: (617) 439-4990
Fax: (617) 439-3987